
VIRTUAL AGM – DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON!

2022–2023 Officers

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is here, the ice has left, and cottagers are starting to flock to the lakes for the opening of cottage season!

We hope that the damage from the ice storm is minimal and we remind you to please clear the trees and branches with care. If you are unable to deal with downed trees or limbs, please ask a professional for help.

As happens every year, some of our docks have gotten restless and decided to take a swim to visit other parts of the lake. If you have lost a dock, or found a dock, a great place to report it is our Facebook page which can be found at facebook.com/bennettandfaganlakes

In this newsletter, you will read some of the things that your Association has done recently and items that we are planning, as well as tips to make cottage life safer and more enjoyable.

Remember, this edition of the newsletter is sent to **all property owners**. However, future 2023 communications will only be sent to **paid up members!** This might be a good time to renew or initiate your B&FLA membership!

Thank you for reading and I hope to see you around the lake this summer.

Dan Fried
President

FREE COTTAGE SUCCESSION WEBINAR: JUNE 7, 2023

The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association is hosting an exclusive cottage succession webinar for Bennett & Fagan Lakes Association members. The session will feature Peter Lillico, an estate planning lawyer. Several board members attended a similar workshop in 2013 and found it extremely valuable for both Canadian and US residents who are looking to minimize taxes while transferring ownership of their lakefront property to their children.

If your goal is to keep your family in the cottage for future generations, the presenter's goal is to help you develop an agreement to secure a lasting and

successful succession, avoid family friction, and prevent 'For Sale' signs from sprouting.

Once you renew your **2023 B&FLA family membership online**, you'll receive details on how to register in your membership confirmation email. If you renewed your membership prior to June, you should have already received the webinar registration email.

Note: All registrants will receive a copy of the slides shown, the day after the event. However, a recording will not be available.

See the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

2023 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE NOW UNDERWAY

The work continues, but we need your help!

The other day, a friend asked me: “Why did you get involved in your Lake Association?” I didn’t wait a second to answer.

I got involved first and foremost as a parent focused on ensuring my kids and the next generation could grow up experiencing a healthy and sustainable environment and a safe and thriving lake community.

Together, we’ve been doing some incredible things for our lake community:

- Testing lake water quality and monitoring water levels, flows and precipitation
- Maintaining and operating fire pump stations
- Helping landowners deal with a gypsy moth infestation and invasive aquatic plants such as Eurasian Milfoil
- Working with landowners on shoreline protection initiatives
- Monitoring ice fishing during the winter season
- Creating a Lake Reps program and a Cottage Watch program
- Organizing social events including an annual fireworks display

We’ve worked hard to build a healthy and safe lake community, but we all know there’s still so much more to do.

That’s why we need you to renew your Lake Association membership for 2023.

Use this link to renew your membership now: bennettandfaganlakes.com/BennettFaganMembers.htm

With your support, we can achieve so much more this year and in the years ahead.

Thank you for stepping up,

Mike Luff

B&FLA Treasurer and Membership Coordinator

In these days of crazy inflation, can you name one thing that has remained the same in price for 10 years?

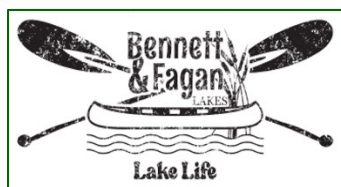
It’s your B&FLA membership – What a bargain!

As a member of B&FLA, you are automatically a member of FOCA. Login to check your member-only benefits and discounts.

Once you have paid your 2023 B&FLA dues, your membership payment confirmation email will include the FOCA member login information (username and password). Proceed to login online at foca.on.ca/benefits to see all current offer access codes. You can receive discounts on *Cottage Life* magazine, cottage and boat insurance, and many other products and services of interest to cottage owners.

Need help with member benefits? Contact the FOCA office: info@foca.on.ca 705-749-3622 ext 1.

B&FLA MERCHANDISE NOW AVAILABLE



Bennett & Fagan Lakes “Lake Life” spirit wear for the whole family is on sale now **until June 15!** We’re offering best sellers

like hoodies, tees, and tanks. In addition, we’re excited to add the following items to our amazing lineup:

- Youth tee
- Youth hoodie
- “Lake Life” beach bag
- Baseball cap with digital patch

Check out the catalogue [here](#) and then download and complete your [order form](#).

Deadline to email your completed order form is **Thursday, June 15 at 2 pm ET** to Karen Burton at dan_karenburton@hotmail.com and then send your payment by e-transfer to Karen at the same email address.

Please feel free to pass on the catalogue and order to friends and family who might be interested in ordering B&FLA spirit wear.

A big THANK YOU to board member Karen for coordinating the sale!

LAKE STEWARD REPORT

Welcome back to the lake everyone.

It's been a long, snowy winter and spring is off to a slow start. Water levels are high due to the amount of precipitation we have experienced in the past 6 months. At this time of the year activity levels are increasing on and around the lake. Understandably with the fear of COVID and associated restrictions all but gone now there is plenty of pent up demand. Property development is surging as more and more people seek to be away from the city life. The US - Canada border is open and more of our southern neighbours are coming back. Baby boomers looking to retire by the lake are retrofitting existing cottages or building new homes on the waterfront. Remote work is on the rise and causing people to work from their cottage by the lake. Staycation as a concept is relatively new and gaining popularity. When these factors are combined, the impact is significant, putting lake quality at risk.

Lake capacity is something we all need to be aware of. It's a concept that has been studied for more than 30 years by the Ontario government and is largely focused on phosphorus levels.

Near shore development can have an impact on the integrity of the natural biota, and water quality. As development occurs on inland lakes such as Bennett and Fagan, there are economic, social and community impacts. At a certain point, the lake can be said to be "at capacity" meaning further development would degrade its condition.

Protection of water quality is essential to protecting the environmental, recreational, economic, and property value of a lake. **Every waterfront property owner has a role to play in protecting water quality, through actions taken on our own properties. As a refresher here is a guide to some best practices to ensure you do your part for our lakes.**

1. Maintain a properly functioning **septic system**. Have your septic system pumped as needed, to remove the build-up of solids and scum, and have the system checked for any required maintenance on a regular basis. If you are converting a cottage into a permanent dwelling be sure to check the capacity of the septic system. Exceeding the capacity of your septic could result in the remobilization of phosphorus in the soil.

2. **Reduce your water use** at your lake front property. Excessive water use is the most common cause of septic failure. Cut down on the amount of water entering your septic system by installing low flow toilets and showerheads and take laundry home to wash if you are a cottager.
3. Regular **septic inspections are key**. The Mississippi Rideau Septic System Office (MRSSO) has been carrying out inspections on an ongoing basis for years. Ensure your Septic system is inspected by MRSSO. Understand if there are any issues and remediate any deficiencies.
4. **Naturalize your shorelines** (e.g. vegetated buffer strips, retain wetlands, remove harden shore structures like retaining walls) to help control soil erosion and the runoff of nutrients to the lake and nearby rivers and streams. If a tree has fallen into the water on your shoreline, leave it. It creates space for fish to hide, feed and improves the lakes health.
5. Limit and reduce the use of phosphorus products. Remember biodegradable doesn't mean phosphate free. Using biodegradable soap and washing in the lake isn't a solution if you lack a bath or shower at your property. Move to phosphorus free products as much as possible.

For more information on septic systems and what the MVCA/MSSRO are doing including some helpful links on issues and annual reports check out:

<https://www.tayvalleytwp.ca/en/living-here/septic.aspx#Annual-Reports>

Also have a look at this link for more information on septic installations put out by the Federation of the Ontario Cottagers Association.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VeTGVnKYA4&t=42s>

Specifically pay attention to the talk about effluent filters at the 5 minute 25 second mark. The importance of having and keeping an effluent filter clean was pointed out to me on an inspection 15 years ago. If solids enter the piping in the septic bed they can create blockages and could result in costly work. The effluent filter stops solids from entering the bed, however it is recommended that it be cleaned at least once a year.

LAKE STEWARD REPORT CONT'D

To facilitate access to the septic tank, lid covers and risers are recommended. Here is a link to a video showing one such product (note it is a US based firm).

<https://www.septicsolutions.com/septic-parts/septic-tank-risers/septic-tank-risers-and-lids>

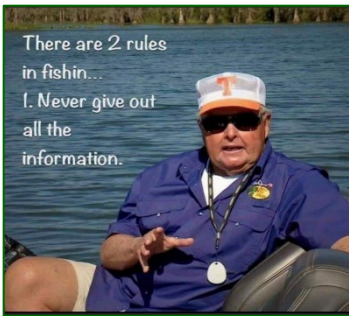
The video provides useful information to understand the product and what to consider before making a purchase. I purchased this same product from a local supplier. Other similar products can be purchased from Amazon or your local retailers

including hardware stores such as Home Hardware and Home Depot.

Remember to perform your own annual septic system inspection as a preventative measure. Check solid and scum levels in the tank, clean out exit and entry openings as well as the effluent filter. If you haven't had your septic tank pumped out in the last 3-5 years, hire a local qualified septic tank hauler to pump out your tank.

Regular inspection and maintenance matters and is often forgotten. While messy and unpleasant it is important for the long-term viability of your septic system.

Fishing



Fishing season is upon us. Bennett and Fagan Lake are home to a number of different species of fish that have varying fishing seasons.

They include:

Sunfish such as:

- Large and Small Mouth Bass - Season: third Saturday in June to December 15
- Black Crappie – Season: Open all year
- Pumpkinseed Sunfish – Season: Open all year
- Bluegill Sunfish – Season: Open all year

Perch including:

- Yellow Perch – Season: Open all year
- Walleye Season: January 1 to March 1 and second Saturday in May to December 31 - **Must be between 40 and 50 cms in length**
- Northern Pike Season: January 1 to March 31 and second Saturday in May to December 31

Common threats to fresh water fish include:

- Invasive species such as Eurasian Milfoil and zebra mussels both of which are in our lakes. New species of fish introduced into the lake that are not native cause other fish populations to be affected. Black Crappie a newer, more recent fish species to our lakes appears to be having a

negative impact on fish populations such as Walleye from a purely anecdotal basis.

- Pollution that comes from fertilizers, pesticides and road salts. Light pollution also has an adverse effect on fresh water fish disrupting their natural cycle.
- Over-fishing causes reduced fish population. The Ministry of Natural Resources studies fish and lakes to establish regulations. The reason for slot sizes is to allow smaller fish to mature into reproductive fish and the larger, mature fish to reproduce successfully. Please respect them.
- Habitat alteration that includes improper shoreline development.
- Climate change causes our lake temps to increase. Shallow lakes are impacted more as the sun warms the water further exacerbated by Zebra mussels filtering the water. Warmer water is fine for the sunfish but harmful to perch and walleye as they go deeper to remain in cold water. Competition for food and habitat increases. Biologists are now studying how water temperatures affect spawning cycles of fish in our lakes.

Fishing is something that many of us around the lake can have some fun with. It's always a treasured moment when someone's face lights up from catching a fish right off our docks. Hope you catch the lunker, take pics, and release him back into the lake to spawn so we can all enjoy more fish for years to come.

All the best for this coming season.

Andrew Oestreich

FRANKLY EDITORIAL

Whether you are a long time resident or a newcomer, a seasonal cottager or permanent resident on our beautiful lakes, I am sure that one of the reasons you are here is the natural beauty and tranquility of our surroundings. We are very fortunate to be one of the only “mostly private” lakes in the area with very little public access and day traffic. However, in my 70+ years as a Bennett Lake summer cottager, I have seen one thing that disturbs me: **invasive lake species!** In particular, zebra mussels and Eurasian milfoil have invaded our lakes and disrupted their native habitat.

The most disturbing thing to me is that this is a **totally preventable, man-made problem.** Someone transported these unwelcome invaders into our waterways! Was it you? Would you be

ashamed of yourself if you knew that you were the cause of those sharp little mussels that cut your children’s feet while they were wading? Would you be sorry if it was your fault that someone could no longer water ski in front of his cottage because Eurasian milfoil has made motor traffic impossible?

The following article explains what invasive species do, how they enter our waterways, and ways to prevent their transport. Please read it! We already have zebra mussels and Eurasian milfoil in our lakes, but we DO NOT have spiny waterflea, YET.

PLEASE DO YOUR PART TO KEEP BENNETT AND FAGAN LAKES FREE OF SPINY WATERFLEA!

INFORMATION ON INVASIVE SPECIES FROM FOCA

As you probably know, your association conducts annual water testing to monitor the health of our lakes.

In 2022, partnering with FOCA, testing was done on Fagan Lake, primarily to detect the presence of invasive species.

Aquatic invasive species are a major threat to the economic and ecological integrity of our waters. Early detection is essential to protect our lakes and rivers from the negative impacts aquatic invaders have on these key ecosystems. The Invasive Species Centre partnered with the Federation of Ontario Cottagers’ Associations (FOCA) to help community members prevent, detect, and monitor aquatic invasive species in inland lakes.

Spiny waterflea is native to Eurasia and was introduced into the Great Lakes from ballast water from ships. Now, spiny waterflea is present in all five Great Lakes and in over 100 nearby inland lakes. They are best known for their barbed tail, used as a defense mechanism to deter predation by small fish. In total, spiny waterflea are just visible at approximately 1.5 cm in length. This invasive zooplankton outcompetes native species for food, which can have cascading impacts to the entire food web. If you would like to see sport fish remain in Bennett and Fagan Lakes, you DO NOT want spiny waterflea to invade us!



This is the tiny, invasive spiny waterflea. Be on the lookout!

The good news is that we tested **NEGATIVE** for Spiny water Flea. However, as you would

expect, we tested **POSITIVE** for Zebra Mussels.

POSITIVE: NOW WHAT?

Now that you know invasive mussels are present, the most important actions are to prevent the spread of invasive mussels to neighboring lakes. Make other cottagers on the lake and visitors to the lake aware of the invasion. Knowledge is key.

The presence of invasive mussels in your lake may also mean some extra work on your part. Invasive mussels can attach to many hard surfaces which can cause clogging of water intake pipes and mechanical issues with boat motors. The good news is there are some tools and strategies you can use to help mitigate some of these consequences.

- **Intake lines and foot valve maintenance:** Draining and drying water intake lines and foot valves can help reduce the risk of blockages. Freezing lines and foot valves after draining is even more effective than simply drying.

INFORMATION ON INVASIVE SPECIES FROM FOCA CONT'D

- **Water intake pipe filter:** Consider a filter for your intake pipes that feed your cottage water supply to prevent mussels from attaching to the inside of the pipe. This works well for year-round cottage use and with planned maintenance.
- **Lift motor or boat out of water:** After each use, lift your boat motor, propellers and all, up out of the water to decrease the chances of invasive mussels attaching themselves to the motor. Or better yet, consider investing in a boat lift or ramp to completely remove your boat from the water.
- **Flush boat motor regularly:** Microscopic veligers can be drawn up through the water inlet of the motor and settle inside, causing blockages as it matures. Frequently using a motor flusher or motor muffs can decrease the risk of this occurring.
- **Wear water shoes:** Mussels can have very sharp shells that hurt to step on, especially for children. Invasive mussels can grow in such abundance they become difficult to avoid. Consider wearing protection on your feet such as water shoes to avoid injury.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Understand the Pathways of Introduction

One characteristic of invasive species is how easily they can spread and establish, especially in aquatic environments. Invasive mussels for example, can attach themselves to boats, trailers or fishing equipment, and microscopic veligers can go undetected in the bilge water and live wells. Aquatic

invasive plants often reproduce asexually through fragmentation, it only takes a small plant piece attached to a boat prop or trailer and moved to a new area to start to grow and root. For these reasons, it is important to understand that recreational boating can be a vector or pathway for spreading aquatic invasive species.

On January 1, 2022, the Ontario Government amended the *Invasive Species Act, 2015*. These changes target the boating pathway as a vector of spread for invasive species. Watercraft such as motorboats, rowboats, canoes, punts, sailboats, rafts, or other related equipment may only be transported if drain plugs and other devices used to control drainage of water have been opened or removed.

Clean, Drain, Dry

- CLEAN any plants, mud, muscles and debris from your boat and equipment.
- DRAIN any water from your bilge and live well.
- DRY your boat and fishing equipment for 2-7 days and/or disinfect with hot, pressurized water.

Don't Dump Your Bait

Juvenile fish species can often be difficult to distinguish and invasive fish species such as Asian carp could be present in your bait. It is the responsibility of the angler to learn to identify their bait fish and empty bait buckets at least 30 meters away from the waterbody shoreline on dry land.

It is against the law to introduce a plant or animal into a waterbody where it is not native. If it isn't where you got it, it isn't where it goes!

REPORT FROM THE LAKE NETWORKING GROUP MEETING: MAY 2, 2023

The Lake Networking Group, which consists of Ontario based Lake Stewards and Conservation Authorities, met via zoom May 2, 2023. Watersheds Canada's Executive Director, Robert Pye, and FOCA's Executive Director, Terry Rees, participated in the meeting and shared thoughts on various water property matters including Bill 23.

Bill 23

On October 25, 2022, the Ontario government introduced the More Homes Built Faster Act, which sets out the government's plan to address the housing crisis by building 1.5 million homes over the

next 10 years. The concern for waterfront property owners is the reduced checks and balances for new construction and its impact on our lakes.

There is a strong sense that the government isn't taking the voices of 250,000 waterfront property owners in Ontario seriously. Watersheds Canada and FOCA have taken on advocacy efforts to deal with the Ontario government seeking changes to walk back some of the development freedoms put in place by the Bill. It is a fluid situation and one that is actively being addressed. There will be more to come on this over time as progress is made.

REPORT FROM THE LAKE NETWORKING GROUP MEETING: MAY 2, 2023 CONT'D

Storm debris & fallen trees: With recent storms there has been a lot of inquiries regarding fallen trees. The best advice is to leave the large branches and fallen trees along the shoreline area if they do not pose a hazard or risk. The natural process of trees falling into rivers and lakes is critical in providing a healthy habitat. There are many beneficial reasons to leave these natural features where they are.

Wood structure in the form of branches and trees is an essential physical, biological, and chemical attribute of lakes and streams for many species. For example, over 85 species of fish are recognized to rely on the wood structure during all or part of their life histories.

- Instream wood structure provides: 1. Food, 2. Refuge, 3. Spawning habitat 4. Nursery and rearing habitat
- Wood structure is a direct and indirect source of food for fish and other aquatic organisms.
- Directly, several fishes consume decomposing wood and bark, while many fish species are dependent on fruits and seeds provided by felled or flooded wood structures.
- Instream wood structure, particularly complex and branchy material, decreases predator foraging success, resulting in creating refuge habitats for small fishes.
- Loss of wood structure refuge can cause extirpations of prey species (e.g., yellow perch *Perca flavescens*, cyprinids) and ultimately determine species assemblages in lakes or rivers.
- Other species that rely on instream wood structure include muskellunge, walleye, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, and many minnow species which all reside in our lakes or waterways.
- They provide basking habitat for species at risk turtles that reside in the lakes that rely on this function to digest their food and for the females to produce their eggs.
- Wood structures along shorelines can also reduce erosion issues along the bank by providing protection from wave energy
- Wood along the shoreline also supports waterfowl who will use them as sheltered areas to rear their young
- Birds will use them to perch and feed along the shoreline zone

MVCA: MVCA stewardship will be quite busy in 2023, with an increased interest in shoreline plantings. BFLA members were offered plantings at a reduced rate last year and more than 40 property owners took advantage of the program. They have also been working on a guide for both lake associations and landowners who are interested in learning more about Eurasian Milfoil removals.

Invasive Species: The OFAH continue to support an invasive species program in our area by funding one MVCA summer student to act as a liaison for the program. This person will be available to help with species ID or provide education resources such as ID booklets and boat launch signs. Please continue to keep an eye out for both aquatic and terrestrial invasive species in your area and report suspected sightings to either eddmaps.org or inaturalist.org. You are also always welcome to send MVCA photos or call for advice.

For more information see:

<http://invadingspecies.com/>

<https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/>

Conservation Ontario's Watershed Report Card: MVCA is participating in creating a 2022 Watershed Report Card following the 5-year reporting cycle, and parameters outlined by Conservation Ontario. Our summary report is nearly ready for publication and when it is, you will be able to find it here: <https://mvc.on.ca/reports/> and all the results from participating CA's can be found here: <https://conservationontario.ca/policy-priorities/science-and-information-management/watershed-reporting>

If a fire broke out, what would you do?

Not everyone is able to fight a fire, but there are things that everyone can do when a fire is spotted:

- Call the fire department FIRST!
- Phone your neighbours and let them know where the fire is.
- DO NOT go to the fire location as a spectator. You will only be in the way!
- Practice good fire safety habits on your own property.
- Be aware of and obey burn bans.

Know the locations of our fire pumps:

- Ennis Beach (north end of Bennett Lake)
- Bill Deering's residence, 267 Scott Crt (near entrance to Fagan Lake)
- Peter Nilsson's residence, 404 Joyce Cres (midpoint)

REPORT FROM THE LAKE NETWORKING GROUP MEETING: MAY 2, 2023 CONT'D

Burn Barrels: A fire permit is required when using one.

Campfires: No fire permit is required if such burning consists of a small, confined fire supervised at all times, and is used to cook food.

Fines: In the event of any negligence or carelessness regarding any fire, the person(s) responsible will be held liable for all costs incurred by the Department in extinguishing said fire, including the time required for all equipment to be made operational again.

If a complaint is received by the Fire Department where person(s) are burning and such burning is causing a discomfort to the complainant, there may be a fee charged for Fire Department personnel to respond and investigate the situation.

Below is a handy chart to complete however you wish. One never knows when an emergency will happen. Instead of having one's mind go blank, complete this chart including your own information. Post it in a key place or two.

Know Your Neighbours

Emergency 911

OPP Non-Emergency: 613-267-2626



Name: _____ Lake # _____ Home # _____ Pin # _____	Name: _____ Lake # _____ Home # _____ Pin # _____	Name: _____ Lake # _____ Home # _____ Pin # _____
Name: _____ Lake # _____ Home # _____ Pin # _____	My Place Lake # _____ Home # _____ Pin # _____	Name: _____ Lake # _____ Home # _____ Pin # _____
_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____

Lake Fire Brigade

Gord Ennis
613-341-1520



Bennett & Fagan Lakes Association



www.bennettandfaganlakes.com

TEST YOUR LANGUAGE SAVVY

Look at the following list of words. Can you tell what they all have in common? (Hint: It has nothing to do with the definition of the words)

acres diets doors posts earnest earthworm coins
reacted optic costs greet ribbing

Answer appears later in this newsletter!

COTTAGE OPENING TIPS FROM FOCA

- Check your car's lights, signals, tire pressure and fluids *before* the trip to the cottage.
- Assemble a first-aid kit for your cottage *and* your car. Already got these? Review the contents of the kits and replace any missing or expired supplies.
- Review the condition of boats, including fuel lines and tanks. Ensure that all required safety equipment is on board and in good repair.
- Check your electricity meter and interior wiring, cords and plugs for any signs of gnawing or other damage before turning on your power for the season!
- Install and maintain cottage smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. Replace those batteries!
- Remove dry leaves and debris from the cottage roof and/or eavestroughs to reduce fire risk. (Remember: use ladders with caution!)
- Boating in spring weather? Beware of the dangers of cold water immersion. Get more tips for boating and cold water safety, here: <https://foca.on.ca/safe-boating/>
- Talk to your insurance representative to review your cottage, car and boat coverage. Bear in mind that many property insurance policies carry exclusions related to water damage – check yours and be sure you understand your coverage. If you already haven't done so, check out the FOCA website for information on cottagers insurance, as you might be entitled to a substantial discount over what you are paying now.
- Do you occasionally rent out your cottage? Many insurance companies require a special rider for this coverage. Check your policy for exclusions. Check government websites to determine whether rentals are permitted under COVID-19 guidelines
- Prepare for extreme weather events by creating a family emergency preparedness plan for the cottage. Just like at home, consider what your family would need to survive at the cottage for 72 hours in a time of emergency.
- Talk to your neighbours, and plan ahead for emergencies by identifying vulnerable people and potential community volunteers.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Advocate for Faster Internet Speed: If you're a Storm Internet customer at the lakes and would like to see faster internet speeds, Storm needs to hear from you! Email Jason Riddick, Residential Sales Manager, at jriddick@corp.storm.ca and ask for faster speeds which may prompt Storm to upgrade our node sooner.

A defibrillator will be available at the Ennis Store beginning this summer. If you have never used one of these life-saving devices, they are extremely easy to operate by following the oral instructions provided with each unit. The Ennis store is located at the north end of Bennett Lake. A big THANK YOU to Bennett Lake Trailer Trash Group and the Ennis family!

NEWS YOU CAN USE CONT'D

Fisheries Management Zone 18, Fishing Regulations Summary (applicable to Bennett & Fagan Lakes):

Walleye (a.k.a. "pickereel"):

- Season: second Saturday in May (May 13, 2023) to December 31st.
- Limit:
 - Sport Fishing License: 4 fish (must be between 40-50 cm or 15.7-19.7 inches)
 - Conservation Fishing License: 2 fish (must be between 40-50 cm or 15.7-19.7 inches)

Bass (Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass combined):

- Season: third Saturday in June (June 17, 2023) to December 15th.
- Limit:
 - Sport Fishing License: 6 fish
 - Conservation Fishing License: 2 fish

Northern Pike:

- Season: second Saturday in May (May 13, 2023) to December 31st.
- Limit:
 - Sport Fishing License: 6 fish
 - Conservation Fishing License: 2 fish

Save Money & The Environment: Use Canola Oil for Chainsaws

Chainsaw operators typically use a petroleum-based oil to lubricate the chain and bar, called bar oil. When a chainsaw is in use, virtually all of the bar oil ends up on the ground which is extremely bad for the environment and the oil mist produced can have adverse effects on your health (respiratory and skin issues, to name a couple). If you use a chainsaw, consider using canola oil, or another vegetable oil, instead of a petroleum-based product to lubricate the chain and bar. Canola oil originated in Canada (it's an abbreviation of "Canadian oil") is a renewable, sustainable farm product, is a vegetable oil that can also be used in cooking, is not harmful to the environment or you, and is considerably cheaper than petroleum-based products. You can easily find it at the grocery store! Europe has been using vegetable oils in chainsaws as a common, regulated practice for many years. In Austria, all petroleum-based chainsaw oils are banned.

The only catch is that you cannot leave canola oil, or other vegetable oils, in extreme cold temperatures or they will freeze, rendering them unusable.

Note: canola oil is only a replacement for the bar oil. Canola oil is NOT a replacement for the oil used in your chainsaw fuel mixture.

IT'S TICK SEASON

Save Yourself, Your Pets, and Your Wallet with These Simple Homemade Recipes



Repellent for your pets:

Add 1 cup of water to a spray bottle, followed by 2 cups of distilled white vinegar. Ticks hate the smell and taste of vinegar and will be easily be repelled by this ingredient alone. Then, add two

spoonfuls of vegetable or almond oil, which both contain sulfur (another natural tick repellent).

For you and your family:

In a spray bottle, mix 2 cups of distilled white vinegar and 1 cup of water. To make a scented solution so you do not smell like bitter vinegar all day, add 20 drops of your favorite essential oil. Eucalyptus oil is a calm, soothing scent that also works as a tick repellent, while peppermint and citrus oils give off a strong crisp scent that also repel ticks. After mixing the solution, spray onto clothing, skin, and hair before going outdoors. Reapply every four hours to keep ticks at bay and examine your skin and hair when back inside to make sure no ticks are on the body.

RESIDENT OF THE USA? THIS SECTION IS FOR YOU!

Many U.S. residents (or other non-Canadian citizens) are not aware that there are a few little-known requirements that you must adhere to. Your editor, who lives in Pennsylvania, was recently caught off guard by the following:

The new UHT Tax on non-Canadian Property Owners. Enacted at the end of 2022, the **Underused Housing Tax** is an Ontario Provincial Tax aimed at limiting foreign real estate investors in Ontario. The good news is that, as the owner of a seasonal vacation property in rural Tay Valley Township, you are exempt from this tax. However, **you must file an annual tax return to prove your exemption.** Forms are due by April 30, yearly; however, for 2023 only, the deadline has been extended to October 31. In order to file, you must first obtain a 9 digit Canadian tax identification



number. Go to [Canada.ca>revenue>taxes](https://Canada.ca/revenue/taxes) to download the form. The website states that you must be prepared to wait **6 to 8 weeks** to receive your TIN. Once you have your identification number, you must then fill out the UHT form and submit it along with original or notarized ID. (Driver's license, passport, or government ID)

FINES WILL BE IMPOSED FOR FAILURE TO FILE!

The Yellow Insurance Card required for driving on Canadian roads. Foreign visitors are required to carry this card, issued by your insurance carrier, to prove that you have sufficient insurance coverage to be driving in Canada. The card is printed on

special cardstock; contact your insurance carrier. You probably won't ever be asked to show this card, but if you are involved in an accident, you might need it!

WANT ADS, FOR SALE ... LOST & FOUND



During the ice move out in mid-April, Karen and Stephen from Bennett Lake Estates lost their dock. Two of the fibreglass floats were removed last year to be repaired so you may recognize it as it will likely be listing just a tad. If anyone spots it, please email sarahdokken@yahoo.com.

Remember, this is YOUR newsletter. As a member of B&FLA you are entitled to place **FREE** want ads in both the spring and fall editions. If you have a business, want to rent your cottage, or have something for sale. You may advertise here. Contact Editor Connie Stackhouse or any member of the Board.

LANGUAGE SAVVY ANSWER

If you remove the middle letter of each word and place it at the beginning, you have created a brand new word!

IN MEMORIAM
WILLIAM (BILL) FINLEY
(1930-2023)



It is with sadness that we report the passing of Bill Finley, former Lake Steward for B&FLA, in January of this year. Although he was originally from the United States, Bill began his love affair with our lakes as a teenager when his parents first brought him to Canada to rent an Ennis cottage in the 1940s. In 1950 they bought what was then an island with a small log cabin at the north end of Bennett Lake, a property which still remains in Bill's family. In 1969, Bill's father became a charter member of the Bennett Lake Association and faithfully attended the AGM until his death. Bill and his wife, Judy, eventually moved to Bennett Lake as permanent residents and joined the Board of B&FLA in 2003. Bill served as Lake Steward, and Judy as Treasurer and newsletter Editor for several years.



2023 Cottage Succession webinar series:

Cottage Succession Seize the Day or Bide Your Time?

All parents face the same conundrum: should the changeover be sooner (during their lifetimes, while they are able to be involved in the transition) or later (on death through their Wills). Learn about both.

Wednesday, June 7th, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

**Feature Speaker:
Peter Lillico
Estate Planning Lawyer**



Association Host:



This event is FREE to all FOCA members including members of the Bennett & Fagan Lakes Association.



Membership Form

Your Bennett and Fagan Lakes Association (B&FLA) works hard to protect and enhance our environment, keep our water and land safe for families, provide information and educational opportunities, and organize activities that foster involvement in our community. Please help us continue this important work for present and future generations. Family memberships are \$30 for the year and fireworks donations are optional.

[Click here](#) to join or renew online using a credit card or PayPal.
Otherwise, please complete & mail the form below.

Please check the type of membership: ___ Renewal ___ New Member

Name(s) (please list all adult family members) _____

Please complete if you are a new member or if your information has changed:

Cottage address and phone number _____

Home address and phone number _____

Email address (please print clearly) _____

Additional email addresses for family members who wish to receive B&FLA communications

Payment:

Membership dues \$30

Fireworks donation (for 2023) + _____

Total _____

___ Cash (*accepted only at in-person events*) ___ Cheque (*payable to Bennett-Fagan Lakes Association*)

I would like to volunteer for the B&FLA. Please contact me: ___ Yes ___ No

Please mail this form with your cheque to:

Bennett and Fagan Lakes Association, P.O. Box 20056, Perth, ON K7H 3M6

Thank you for your support!

(Office Use Only) Date Received: _____